

I hope that all my colleagues will support these bills as a small expression of support and willingness to provide not just equality in quality of life benefits for our National guardsmen and reservists but support to all our men and women—our treasure—who are sacrificing so much for our nation, our freedoms and the freedom of the Iraqi people.

Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bills be read a third time and passed, en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc; and that any statements relating to the bills be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bills (S. 711 and S. 712) were read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 711

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PAYMENT OF SELECTED RESERVE REENLISTMENT BONUS TO MEMBERS OF SELECTED RESERVE WHO ARE MOBILIZED.

Section 308b of title 37, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), and (f) as subsections (e), (f), and (g), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection (d):

“(d) **PAYMENT TO MOBILIZED MEMBERS.**—In the case of a member entitled to a bonus under this section who is called or ordered to active duty, any amount of such bonus that is payable to the member during the period of active duty of the member shall be paid the member during that period of active duty, notwithstanding the service of the member on active duty pursuant to such call or order to active duty.”

S. 712

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN ANNUITIES FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES OF RESERVES NOT ELIGIBLE FOR RETIREMENT WHO DIE FROM A CAUSE INCURRED OR AGGRAVATED WHILE ON INACTIVE-DUTY TRAINING.

(a) **SURVIVING SPOUSE ANNUITY.**—Paragraph (1) of section 1448(f) of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(1) **SURVIVING SPOUSE ANNUITY.**—The Secretary concerned shall pay an annuity under this subchapter to the surviving spouse of—

“(A) a person who is eligible to provide a reserve-component annuity and who dies—

“(i) before being notified under section 12731(d) of this title that he has completed the years of service required for eligibility for reserve-component retired pay; or

“(ii) during the 90-day period beginning on the date he receives notification under section 12731(d) of this title that he has completed the years of service required for eligibility for reserve-component retired pay if he had not made an election under subsection (a)(2)(B) to participate in the Plan; or

“(B) a member of a reserve component not described in subparagraph (A) who dies from an injury or illness incurred or aggravated in line of duty during inactive-duty training.”

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The heading for subsection (f) of section 1448 of such title is amended by inserting “OR BEFORE” after “DYING WHEN”.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as of September 10, 2001, and shall apply with re-

spect to performance of inactive-duty training (as defined in section 101(d) of title 10, United States Code) on or after that date.

TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF DEATH GRATUITY TO ARMED FORCES MEMBERS

Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Armed Services Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 704 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 704) to amend title 10, United States Code, to increase the amount of the death gratuity payable with respect to deceased members of the Armed Forces.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 704) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 704

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. INCREASE IN DEATH GRATUITY PAYABLE WITH RESPECT TO DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) **INCREASE IN DEATH GRATUITY.**—Section 1478(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “\$6,000” and inserting “\$12,000”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on September 11, 2001, and shall apply with respect to deaths occurring on or after that date.

RECOGNIZING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF SINKING OF USS “THRESHER”

Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 102, which was submitted earlier today by Senator SUNUNU.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 102) recognizing the 40th anniversary of the sinking of the USS *Thresher*.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, this legislation pays tribute to the 129 officers, sailors, and civilians who lost their lives aboard the USS *Thresher* 40 years ago next week.

The loss of these brave individuals was a tragedy for the U.S. submarine service, for the Navy, and the Nation. Yet out of this tragedy, the Navy was able to learn important lessons about submarine safety and acted to correct design and construction concerns that existed on other subs, and prevent engineering and design flaws on future

submarines. These measures have served to benefit our Navy ever since.

Built at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and commissioned in August of 1961, the USS *Thresher* was the lead ship in a new class of nuclear-powered attack submarines.

In the fall of 1961 and throughout 1962, the *Thresher* was put through its paces along the eastern seaboard to test its new technological and weapons advancements. Once these tests were completed, the *Thresher* returned to New England for an overhaul where she remained until the spring of 1963.

On April 9, 1963, the *Thresher* departed the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard to conduct deep sea diving exercises some 200 miles off the coast of New England. In the morning hours of April 10, 1963, after reaching her assigned depth, the USS *Thresher*, signaled her companion surface ship, the USS *Skylark*, that it was experiencing difficulties. Shortly thereafter, the crew of the *Skylark* realized that something had gone very wrong as they heard the sound of the *Thresher* breaking apart.

In the investigation that followed this terrible accident, the conclusion was reached that the *Thresher* in all likelihood had sunk due to a failure in its piping, a subsequent loss of power, and an inability to blow the ballast tanks which would have allowed the sub to rise. To this day, the remains of the *Thresher* rest some 8,500 feet below the ocean's surface.

As a result of the *Thresher* incident, the Navy initiated two significant changes to enhance submarine safety. The first of these was the SUBSAFE program, which ensured that every submarine in the fleet and every future submarine built had to pass a rigorous testing program on hull integrity systems as well as pressure-related parts. No sub would go into service without a 100-percent certification.

Second, this tragedy inspired the Navy to encourage a new ocean engineering discipline within a handful of prestigious educational institutions. Today, engineers in this discipline are trained to design and implement systems that can withstand the rigors of a lifetime's use in ocean waters.

Today, I join with Senators GREGG, SNOWE and COLLINS to submit this resolution to honor the naval and civilian crew of the USS *Thresher*.

This resolution will provide Senate recognition of the 40th anniversary of the *Thresher* incident—April 10—and pay tribute to her valiant crew. The resolution also calls on the Senate to express its deep gratitude to all American submariners who are on “eternal patrol.”

Next week, on the 40th anniversary of the *Thresher* accident, Senators GREGG, SNOWE, COLLINS and I will submit another resolution that will call on the Secretary of the Army to erect a modest memorial at Arlington National